CLAIMS

We claim:

5   1.   A computer-based method comprising:
            receiving a request for data;
            retrieving, from a filter registry in
       response to said request, a rule set for a
       plurality of partial filter adapters wherein, upon
10   being chained together said plurality of partial
       filter adapters converts source data to said data;
       and
            building a filter using said rule set wherein
       said filter comprises a chain of said plurality of
15   partial filter adapters wherein each partial
       filter adapter includes a generic format
       independent interface and said generic format
       independent interface is used in passing data from
       one partial filter adapter in said plurality of
20   partial filter adapters to another partial filter
       adapter in said plurality of partial filter
       adapters.

       2.   A method according to Claim 1 wherein said
25   filter renders the source data in a different way to
       produce said data.

       3.   A method according to Claim 1 wherein said
       filter converts said source data from a first format to
30   a second format.

       4.   A method according to Claim 3 wherein a device
       from which said request for data was issued supports at
       least two data formats, and said method further
35   comprises:

selecting said second data format from said
at least two data formats.

5. A method according to Claim 4, wherein said
selecting said second data format further comprises:
using a selection scheme including at least
one of the following criterion: storage space
required by said data in each of said two data
formats supported by said process; conversion time
for said data from said first data format into
each of said data formats supported by said
process; and a quality for each of said two data
formats.

6. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
converting said source data to said data
using said filter.

7. The method of Claim 1 wherein said generic
format independent interface is a Simple API for XML
interface.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein said partial
filter adapters comprise a general partial filter
adapter having functionality determined by a parameter.

9. The method of Claim 8 wherein said general
partial filter adapter comprises an eXtensible Style
sheet Language Transformation processor, and said
parameter comprises an eXtensible Style sheet Language
Transformation script.

10. A computer program product comprising a
medium configured to store or transport computer
readable code for a method comprising:
receiving a request for data;

retrieving, from a filter registry in response to said request, a rule set for a plurality of partial filter adapters wherein, upon being chained together said plurality of partial

5   filter adapters converts source data to said data; and

building a filter using said rule set wherein said filter comprises a chain of said plurality of partial filter adapters wherein each partial

10   filter adapter includes a generic format independent interface and said generic format independent interface is used in passing data from one partial filter adapter in said plurality of partial filter adapters to another partial filter

15   adapter in said plurality of partial filter adapters.

11. A computer program product as in Claim 10 wherein said filter renders the source data in a

20   different way to produce said data.

12. A computer program product as in Claim 10 wherein said filter converts said source data from a first format to a second format.

25

13   A computer-based method comprising:

receiving a request for data having a first format from a process requiring data in a second format;

30   retrieving, from a filter registry in response to said request, a rule set for a plurality of partial filter adapters wherein, upon being chained together said plurality of partial filter adapters converts said data from said first

35   format to said second format; and

building a filter using said rule set wherein
said filter comprises a chain of said plurality of
partial filter adapters wherein each partial
filter adapter includes a generic format
5   independent interface and said generic format
independent interface is used in passing data from
one partial filter adapter in said plurality of
partial filter adapters to another partial filter
adapter in said plurality of partial filter
10   adapters.

14.   A method according to Claim 13 further
comprising:
selecting said second data format from at
15   least two data formats supported by said process.

15.   A method according to Claim 14, wherein said
selecting said second data format further comprises:
using a selection scheme including at least
20   one of the following criterion: storage space
required by said data in each of said two data
formats supported by said process; conversion time
for said data from said first data format into
each of said data formats supported by said
25   process; and a quality for each of said two data
formats.

16.   The method of Claim 13 further comprising:
converting said data in said first format to
30   data in said second format using said filter.

17.   The method of Claim 13 wherein said generic
format independent interface is a Simple API for XML
interface
35

18. The method of Claim 13 wherein said partial filter adapters comprise a general partial filter adapter having functionality determined by a parameter.

5   19. The method of Claim 18 wherein said general partial filter adapter comprises an eXtensible Style sheet Language Transformation processor, and said parameter comprises an eXtensible Style sheet Language Transformation script.

10

20. A structure comprising:
   a partial filter adapter library;
   a partial filter adapter registry wherein said partial filter adapter registry includes a
15   rule set; and
   a filter server coupled to said partial filter adapter registry and to said partial filter adapter library, wherein said filter server uses said rule set to build a filter using a plurality
20   of partial filter adapters from said partial filter adapter library.

21. A structure comprising:
      a first partial filter adapter having a
25   generic format independent interface; and
      a second partial filter adapter having said generic format independent interface coupled to said first partial filter adapter.

30   22. The structure of Claim 21 wherein said generic format independent interface is a simple API for XML interface.

   23. The structure of Claim 22 wherein said simple
35   API for XML interface is a XML document handler interface.

24. A method for rendering accessible data stored in a first data format in a first computer system for a second computer system supporting a second data format,
5   said method comprising:

receiving in said first computer system a request from said second computer system for said data;

receiving in said first computer system
10   information about at least one data format supported by said second computer system,

selecting said second data format, if said first computer system was informed about more than one data format supported by said second computer
15   system;

comparing in said first computer system said first data format with said second data format,

generating a filter for converting said data from said first data format into said second data
20   format, if said first data format is incompatible with said second data format, by combining a first partial filter adapter to a second partial adapter for the transformation of data; and

converting said data in said first computer
25   system using said filter from said first data format into said second data format.